

ANNOUNCING AUGUST SPOT AWARDS

Ronnie Clark

Nominated by Carrie Wascom

I recommend Ronnie Clark (I'm not sure of his job title, I just know that he wears many hats these days: Building Maintenance Liaison, Property Liaison, Mail Operations/Receiving Liaison, Telecommunications Liaison) of the General Services Section, Office of Management and Finance for a SPOT Award. He has done an outstanding job with assisting the Office of the Secretary Staff in the move of employees from the 6th Floor to the 5th Floor as well as other employees that moved from the 5th Floor to other offices in the building. This was no small task. When the new telephone lines were connected, he took it upon himself to make sure that all the lines were working properly. Besides keeping up with telephone changes, he keeps up with Inventory/Property changes and Building Maintenance requests without complaint. He has done an excellent job of balancing all of these jobs, especially the newly appointed one as Property Liaison since the retirement of Ms. Juneau McGee. Ronnie has done all of these normally thankless tasks while maintaining a positive demeanor and a quick smile!

Over the years Ronnie has assisted many employees with different issues, again without complaint and a positive attitude. He has kept our department maintenance issues a priority and most of us take them for granted. Such as elevators, restrooms and kitchen problems, without his assistance with Building Maintenance our Building would be a mess.

As a Building Maintenance Liaison, Property Liaison, and Telecommunications Liaison myself, I understand how time consuming and



Ronnie Clark receiving his SPOT award

underappreciated these jobs can be. I feel that Ronnie Clark has performed his job with exceptional courtesy to his fellow employees at LDEQ and he would make an excellent choice to be a SPOT Award winner.

Jesse Means

Nominated by Chris Piehler,
Howard Fielding and Mary Gentry

We would like to nominate Jesse Means for the October 2010 SPOT Award. Jesse has been actively involved in protecting sources of drinking water for over 12 years. He is the team leader under the Geologist Supervisor in the Aquifer Evaluation and Protection Section. He is a very conscientious worker taking on extra duties where there are gaps in the section and division due to a shortage of personnel. His innovative thinking outside of the box has advanced the AEP in many areas. His outgoing personality and easy demeanor make



Jesse Means receiving his SPOT award

for a pleasant working environment and enable him to establish a good rapport with the public. His multifaceted ability is impressive whether it is speaking to the public, using GIS applications to make maps or answer public inquiries, sampling water bodies or wells, or developing databases. As Administrator I have frequently felt a deep appreciation for all that Jesse continues to do! So, when I recognized that sampling training was needed for the entire Division, I called upon Jesse to prepare a class on the subject and teach it to the Division. Jesse took it one step further and got students out of the class room and into the field to actually do the sampling. As always, he did a superb job. Jesse spearheaded the section's post hurricane assessment activities following hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, locating damaged wells so they could be properly plugged. Following hurricane Gustav in 2008 Jesse again took the lead in the section's hurricane response activities, sampling water in Bayou Lafourche in order to assess impacts of the storm on the bayou, a major drinking water source. He has often volunteered for tasks beyond the scope of the program when he thought it would be of benefit to our program and likewise the environment. He sees a problem as an opportunity for a solution rather than a setback. Jesse is a "go to" person with people throughout the DEQ as well as outside

agencies. His phone is constantly ringing because so many people know Jesse has the answer and if he doesn't he will find it. Perhaps the best way to sum it up is that Jesse is pro-active in a pro-active program and no matter what new challenges arise his response is always I'll do it!

Brian Tusa

Nominated by Rodney Mallett

I'd like to nominate Brian Tusa for an August Spot Award. He has displayed examples of professionalism, teamwork and has gone above and beyond in the many roles he has held at area command.

He volunteered to take on an assisting role in oil spill duty in area command in Robert in April. At that time he served as a valuable asset as a runner/gopher for the DEQ incident commander and anyone else who he could help. Not just DEQ, but state police, the feds and others.

As time passed, Brian took on larger duties. He has recently served as DEQ's on-scene coordinator, routinely filled in for others at high-level meetings with oil spill officials and has always represented DEQ well.

Working weekends and evenings, missing his daughter's tee-ball games, Brian has been in the trenches in Robert, and now New Orleans, handling a variety of extra duties, while still fulfilling his supervisor role in the Southeast Regional Office.

Recently, Secretary Hatch had to give a presentation to some high-level officials on the oil spill and DEQ's role during the event. Brian was able to research and find some numbers related to DEQ activity (SCAT, recon, etc) that Secretary Hatch used to impress the crowd.

To sum up why Brian should be a Spot Award winner:

1. He has represented DEQ well during trying times. Others may have dodged extra duty, but Brian accepted extra work and has risen through the ranks because of his efforts

2. Brian has gone above and beyond to do what's best for the state and department. He has worked long hours and missed family time in an effort to help the cause.

3. He assists those who need assistance. From showing a newcomer at area command where to get a parking pass, to compiling numbers to giving a heads up on national-level media calls, Brian does his best to help.

Steven Murrell

Nominated by Rhonda Braud,
Vennetta Hayes, and Jana Orillion

We would like to nominate Steve Murrell for the August SPOT award. Steve is currently a DCLA in the Air Analysis Section. In addition to his normal work, which is really more than the normal and includes training and assisting operators with routine (and often non-routine) troubleshooting of equipment, managing the hourly updates and status of over 40 air monitoring sites statewide to the network data server, coordinating implementation of new monitoring sites, and generally putting out fires, Steve has really stepped up when we needed him. Steve is a DCLA for the very reason DCLA positions were created – we cannot function without his support. This has not been proven to be truer than in the past few months.

After the retirement of our manager over eight months ago, Steve has been a vital resource for knowledge and experience from which we have depended upon heavily. Now recently with the retirement of four additional employees, one employee on extended leave, and one (of three) supervisors also on extended leave, Steve has



Steven Murrell receiving his SPOT award

really taken a leadership-role in keeping our team on track. With a wealth of experience, he is our “go to” person for most site operation problems and issues. In addition to his “normal” workload, Steve has taken on many of the duties of our retired coworkers. He assists in maintaining two monitoring sites in the Capital Region, he has taken on maintenance and upkeep of meteorological equipment of all the sites, and he even monitors and repairs poorly functioning equipment at sites when operators are unable to complete a repair themselves. He also monitors the online data status at night and on weekends regularly. Most of these functions are completed simultaneously while he is on the office phone or on his cell phone explaining how to complete a costly repair on site for a fraction of the cost of what most states pay to have the same piece of equipment sent to the manufacturer. All the while Steve maintains a positive, jovial attitude which reminds his coworkers how lucky we are to work with such a talented professional. Steve is truly an asset to the Department and is more than deserving of the SPOT award.